

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 996

By Fincher

A RESOLUTION to recognize and commend the members of  
Corinthian Lodge #414 of the Free and Accepted  
Masons on the celebration of that Lodge's 140<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary.

WHEREAS, from time to time, the members of this General Assembly pause in their deliberations to recognize those venerable long-standing organizations that have played significant roles in the successful development of their communities; and

WHEREAS, Corinthian Lodge #414 of the Free and Accepted Masons (F&AM), located in Nashville, is one such organization that will soon be celebrating the 140th anniversary of its founding; and

WHEREAS, following a dispensation granted by Grand Master John Paxton on September 21, 1870, the charter to form Corinthian Lodge #414 was granted by the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Tennessee on November 16, 1870; and

WHEREAS, Corinthian Lodge #414 was formed by twenty members of Cumberland Lodge #8 who believed it was a propitious time for a new Lodge. The original members and officers of Corinthian Lodge #414 were: Worshipful Master Wilbur F. Forster, P.M., Senior Warden John B. Morris, P.M., Junior Warden Benjamin F. Brown, Treasurer Theodore Cooley, Secretary Horace C. Ross, Senior Deacon William C. Smith, Junior Deacon Bradford Nichol, C.W. Byram, Charles B. Cooley, Julian S. Cooley, Edward R. Richardson, Thomas C. Rook, Samuel Scoggins, George Holbrook, Thomas H. Maney, Leonard Parkes, John A. Wilson, Charles W. Stockell, Albert B. Tavel, and Jacob L. Thomas; and

WHEREAS, early meetings for the Corinthian Lodge #414 were held in the Masonic Temple, the White Building, the Bowen Building, and the YMCA building on the campus of Vanderbilt University, but the Lodge, which had grown to 388 members in 1919, purchased its

own building at 1616 West End Avenue. The grand opening for this location was held on May 14, 1920, with an address from the first Master of the Lodge, Brother Wilbur F. Foster; and

WHEREAS, Corinthian Lodge #414 reached its highest level of membership in 1956, when the Lodge was patronized by 1,096 members; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, the Lodge embarked upon a large remodeling program, which was completed in 1973 and which renovated and updated the home of Corinthian Lodge #414; and

WHEREAS, over the years, the membership of Corinthian Lodge #414 has been comprised of the highest caliber of men society has to offer. Many of its members have been active in community affairs and have become well-known as the religious, civic, cultural, and political leaders of the City of Nashville and of the State of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, for more than eight decades, Corinthian Lodge #414 had as its meeting place the property on West End Avenue. On June 11, 2008, the Lodge purchased the former facility of the Edgefield Lodge, located at 1400 Eastland Avenue and, on February 2, 2010, following the Groundbreaking Ceremony and The Laying of the Cornerstone by the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Tennessee, Brother Dickie Wayland Johnson, the first meeting was held by the membership of Corinthian Lodge #414 at that organization's new location; and

WHEREAS, over the past 140 years, 2,486 members of Corinthian Lodge #414 have been conferred with Master Mason degrees; the Lodge has been led by 134 Worshipful Masters, nineteen Treasurers, seventeen Secretaries, twenty-six Tilers, and thirty-five Chaplains; and

WHEREAS, the first Worshipful Master of Corinthian Lodge #414, Wilbur F. Foster, also held a number of other positions within Masonry, including those of Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee, Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Tennessee, and Right Eminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery Knight Templar of Tennessee and was the first Master of Kadosh Trinity Consistory, Valley of Nashville, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS, in total, four Past Masters of Corinthian Lodge #414 have matriculated to serve as Grand Masters of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee: Brother E.R. Burr, Brother Martin S. Roberts, Brother Addison B. McClure, and Brother John T. Pigg; and

WHEREAS, the Lodge has also had three members to serve as Grand High Priest of the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Tennessee and one member other than Brother Foster to serve as Most Illustrious Grand Master of the Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, several of the founders of Corinthian Lodge #414 were veterans of the Civil War, and its members throughout the years has answered their country's call during the Spanish-American War, World War I, World War II, and the conflicts in Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf. The Lodge lost two members to conflict during World War II and continues to honor their memories; and

WHEREAS, for the last 140 years, Corinthian Lodge #414 has made an indelible and profound impact upon the Nashville community and the State of Tennessee, and the lodge stands as an honorable tribute to the history and importance of Freemasonry; and

WHEREAS, it is wholly appropriate that we formally recognize the membership of Corinthian Lodge #414 on this auspicious occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate the membership of Corinthian Lodge #414, Free and Accepted Masons, on the celebration of its 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary, extending our best wishes for a full and vibrant future for this stalwart organization.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.